

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1-7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising purified human proNGF as the active ingredient, wherein the purified human proNGF is purified to at least 90% purity and has an activity in vivo analogous to  $\beta$ -NGF and promotes survival of dorsal root ganglia (DRG) sensory neurons.
- 9-19. (Canceled)
20. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 8, wherein the purified human proNGF is recombinant human proNGF.
- 21-25. (Cancelled)
26. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 8, wherein the human proNGF has an ~~EC<sub>50</sub> value~~ a biological activity in a dorsal root ganglion (DRG) assay that is ~~less than~~ about twice half that of human  $\beta$ -NGF in the same assay on a molar basis.
27. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 8, wherein the purified human proNGF comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4.
28. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 8, wherein the purified human proNGF is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

29. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising purified human proNGF as the active ingredient, wherein the purified human proNGF has an ~~EC<sub>50</sub>~~ value a biological activity in a dorsal root ganglion (DRG) assay that is ~~less than~~ about twice half that of human  $\beta$ -NGF in the same assay on a molar basis.